

## THE MANDATE: DISCIPLESHIP

### MATTHEW 28:18-20

I. The Mission: “Make Disciples” is the Christ-given mission for every believer!  
“Go therefore and make disciples...” (Matt. 28:19a).

#### A. His Plan for Disciple-making (Matt. 28:18-20)

1. The order that Jesus gives in this plan is very important. He was saying “go and make disciples” and that involved:

- winning people to Christ (reach)
- growing them up in Christ (teach)
- sending them out to repeat the process (repeat)

2. To make disciples we must “go” to the nations! To go into the world, you must get out of the church.

#### B. Our Perversion of the Plan

Four ways the church has perverted the plan:

1. Allowing the word “Christian” to replace the word “disciple” when defining a true follower of Christ.

2. The reduction of the demands of Christ concerning what it means to be a true Christ-follower in order to make “Christianity” more attractive to the world (Matt. 16:24-27).

3. The substitution of tradition and pastoral employment by the church for the clear command in the Word of God for every follower of Christ to be a disciple maker (Matt. 28:19-20; John 15:8).

4. The individual choice to allow “activities” to replace the work required to be a disciple maker.

The work of discipleship is not one thing the church does—it is what the church does. It requires theology, time and willing people. Without theology—it’s friendship. Without time—it can’t work. Without willing people—it will never work.

## II. The Method - How to Become a Disciple Maker

1. Own the assignment.
2. Understand the method.
3. Be ready with a plan.
4. Make the invitation.
5. Stop making excuses.
6. START somewhere!